

Statement of Congressman Ron Kind
H.R. 878
Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY DISPLEASURE WITH THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IN ALLOWING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION TO BE HIJACKED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS AND LOADED WITH FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE TAX BREAKS FOR THOSE NOT SERVING OUR COUNTRY ON THE FRONT LINES.

MR. SPEAKER, H.R. 878 GIVES OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM NEEDED TAX RELIEF AT A TIME THEY NEED IT MOST. THIS BILL HELPS FAMILIES SEPARATED BY CONFLICT RECEIVE MILITARY DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE TAX-FREE. IT REDUCES THE QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR THE CAPITAL GAINS EXEMPTION ON HOME SALES DURING THE TIME A SOLDIER IS SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY. FINALLY, H.R. 878 ALLOWS NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS TO TAKE A TAX DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO CERTAIN REQUIRED TRAVEL. ALL OF THESE PROVISIONS ARE SIMPLY A WAY FOR CONGRESS TO MAKE LIVES A LITTLE BIT EASIER FOR OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

BUT MR. SPEAKER, THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE TO BE PLAYING PARTISAN BUDGET GAMES. WITH OVERSEAS CONFLICT LOOMING, WE MUST TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES. LET US REVISIT THESE EXTRANEOUS TAX CREDIT PROVISIONS IN THE PROPER SETTING, AND NOT TRY TO HIDE THEM IN THIS BILL.

I URGE THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO RECOGNIZE THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THIS BILL, AND TO CONSIDER THE DEMOCRATIC PROPOSAL THAT BENEFITS OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM.

I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.